(SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Simplification of export documents and procedures is an on-going process. The suggestions received for simplification of export documents, from time to time, are considered in a positive manner in consultation with the concerned Ministries in the Government, including Ministry of Finance, and the organisations connected with export trade. Similarly, the genuine difficulties pointed out by the trade are always looked into carefully with a view to solving them.

(c) It is the Government's avowed policy to give maximum encouragement for raising the country's exports. As a result, whereas the provisional export figure for 1987-88 stands at Rs. 15,719 crores, the export target for the current year i.e. 1988-89, has been fixed at Rs. 18,795 crores.

United Nations Environment Programme

1683. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the assistance received under the United Nations Environment Programme and the Statewise details as to how it is being spent since 1984; and

(b) the details of proposals received from Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard and funds released so far for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) An amount of US $ 5000 only has been received from the United Nations Environment Programme since 1984 which has been spent for the purpose of providing environment information services. No disbursement has been made to the States.

(b) No proposals have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the question of releasing of funds does not arise.

Plight of handloom weavers

1684. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the handloom weavers have turned out to be the worst victims of the erroneous policies of his Ministry; and

(b) whether Government are aware that there is wide-spread, fueling amongst weavers that the policies and programmes of his Ministry are aimed at favouring the mills, powerlooms and big business at the expense of the small weavers; if so, what remedial steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) It is not correct to say that the Textile Policy of June, 1985 has adversely affected the interests of handloom weavers. The Textile Policy, 1985 is aimed at harmonious development of all the three sectors of the Textile Industry *viz-* handloom, powerloom and mill sector. However, Government have constituted a Committee on 13-5-88 for reviewing the progress of implementation of the Policy in respect of the various sectors of the Textile Industry with particular emphasis on how far the various measures devised in the Textile Policy for protection of handlooms have been effective in achieving their objective.

Agreement with Australia for Concessional Finance

1685. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with Australia for a package of concessional finance; and

(b) if so what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with the Government of Australia on the 10th February, 1989, for provision of concessional loans to finance development projects in India. The objectives of the MOU are:—

(i) ensure effective procedures for funding projects which have been agreed as important in India's development programme; and

(ii) to facilitate the use of Australian goods and services for developmental purposes through concessional finance packages.

According to the provisions of this MOU the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) will offer a Development Import Finance Facility (DIFF) grant of not less than 35 percent (or such other percentage as may be required by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Consensus) of the 'eligible contract value'.

No separate agreement for the financial package has yet been signed.

Export of medicinal plants

1686. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantities of medicinal plants are being exported from the country; if so, the yearwise details thereof indicating the names of the importing countries and value of foreign exchange earned thereby during the last three years;

(b) whether apart from unprocessed medicinal plants, medicinal preparations have also been exported; if so, what are the details thereof; yearwise and country-wise and the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby;

(c) what is the yearly availability of medicinal plants and annual demand in the country for various plants/preparations; and

(d) whether there has been increase in availability due to planned planting during various plan periods and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) The value of export of medicinal plants (crude drugs) during 1986-87 and 1987-88 are given below:—

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1986-87.	57.96
1987-88.	77.36

The major countries to which exports are effected are USA, UK, West Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Spain and Thailand. Export data regarding quantity of medicinal plants exported are not being maintained. Exports of medicinal preparations, based on medicinal plants are insignificant and, therefore, relevant data are not maintained separately.

(SOURCE: Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Bombay).

(c) and (d) A number of medicinal plants are under commercial cultivation. However, reliable data regarding availability and demand of individual medicinal plants are not available. The ICAR is operating an All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants with nine research centres in different parts of India. It carries research work on selected crops and has brought out several improvements both in varieties developed and cultivation practices evolved on these crops. This has eventually improved commercial cultivation and availability of raw materials in the country both for use in India and for export.